Salt Lake City, Utah
1881 - May 2,

To the Woman's Relief Society of Provo
Walker House Salt Lake City, Utah
Monday, May 2nd 1881

Beloved in the Lord

I must thank you all
with my heart, for what I have seen,
and heard what I have heard. First I will
I must tell you of our Miss Cleveland
the testimonies regarding her engagement
in her praise. Mr Jr. Kirkwood told me
that they all felt her to be a good
worker, and a noble lady. He said that
Mr McAllister the Superintendent warmly
valued her highly as a co-laborer, and
and that he knew
woman would
but natural
and teaching, and
to hear any thing
perfectly delighted

Utah, just visit Utah
Jan. 1881

part of the work in Utah) where it
is so sorely needed. Our Boards have
been with in the choice of the men sent to
this place. Mr Barrows of the Congregational
Church, with whom we have travelled from
Chicago here, and Mr McNiece of the
Presbyterian Church would grace any pulpit
in the land. The Gentile population
is large and intelligent, and they need the
best of Christian instruction to say nothing
of the necessity of having the truth present-
ed in the best possible manner to the
Mormons. You may remember hearing
Rev Dr. Campbell of Rochester in our
Missionary prayer meeting on Thursday
evening speak of Miss Kelly who went from
his Church as a teacher in the Salt Lake
Institute. The morning she took us to her
room and over the building, in which
I am so glad you have "shares."
A Miss Pierce was also there a teacher in
our School at Mt Pleasant Utah) She

Knows Miss Olmstead and loves her. One of Miss Pierce's girls taught Miss O's school while she was ill last winter. The school has grown very rapidly under Miss Olmsted and is crowned a perfect success by all. I know that the money used here for her has been well invested and that our Presbyterial Society has done a grand work. You have been privileged in being permitted to aid in this, dear one in Phillips, and I am sure you will be glad to continue the blessed mission. If you could see and know all, at home as we do, you would feel like doing more than ever. I thought I loved Home Missions before, but I love them now for more intelligently now, as also the Foreign work, since our experience with the Japanese gentlemen about whom I wrote you. We have been at fault all of us, every Church and every board, in not giving our teachers, and Missionaries, a better support, larger salaries and more sympathy

has so that no one will live there now, although it is an elegant building of 32 rooms. It is thought to be Brigham Young's ghost, by some foolish ones, but he takes an odd way to show his love for Gentiles. "
~~Mr McKean called on the 8th, and the~~
a gentleman gave me an account of Brigham's funeral, when seventeen widows followed his remains, trying to look sorry, but they say not a tear was shed among all the thousand who went to the grave. Our Young Ladies that none of them should wear mourning, fearing that such a demand would cause a corner in the market of crape. It was a sad sight to us, that miserable Mormon Country, with not a tree or flower to deck a single grave. Such disregard of their departed friends tells something of the lack of sensibility which this dreadful system causes. But I believe it will be overthrown, for as the children become educated they will never remain in this faith. Many are coming out continually from it.)

The "Collegiate Institute" is very prosperous. We were in time to see the opening exercises this morning, and the singing was very sweet. I never saw a brighter set looking set of people, any where. Most of the children, 62 per cent are from families of "Apostates." as those are called who leave the Mormon faith. Some are from those still in the evil way, but even these will send their children where they know they receive the best instruction, and of course our schools give that. Fifty two per cent are charity pupils. The appointments of the building are all excellent, but more room is needed, or they will have to turn pupils away. [illegible] The parsonage [illegible] was built by a Mormon years ago. When he brought home his second wife he built a wing for her. Then for the third wife another wing on the other side. [illegible]

~~has his study.~~ The horrors of this polygamous system can never be appreciated until you come into the midst of it. We this morning rode about the city. and saw all the sights. One house was pointed out where a first wife lives alone, and has the privilege of looking across the way at a far more elegant mansion where her husband lives with his second wife, a former servant girl of the first. It is very common to see little bits of cottages with two or more doors, one for each wife, and in some cases a family of a man and four or five wives live in one or two rooms. Nothing among the heathen is worse than this, yet the Mormons try to make us believe that they are the happiest people in the world. We visited the wonderful Tabernacle which has an immense dome without a supporting pillar. The organ has nearly 8000 pipes, and is the largest in the country except one in Boston, and one in Cincinnati. The building seats 12,000

people, and it a "whispering gallery"

We heard a pin drop across the entire length of the building. It is said that the temple now being built for their sacred "Secret rites" is very large and elegant. Amelia's Palace "Stands deserted now, for Queen She was Brigham Young's favorite wife: and she had a beautiful house apart from the seventeen others, most of them lived in a long building called the "Lion House" At her death Mr Young left the palace to Amelia, with the request that it should be used as a reception House for the Kings and Queens of the earth who should visit Salt Lake". When Amelia said she would not be put up for exhibition, it made me think of Tasha of old, so she left the house and more receptive one of her own. The most amusing part of the story is that the Salt Lake Tribune, a Gentile paper, put out an article saying that the House was haunted, that a ghost in white was seen there, and the Mormons believe it.

the way, and we know you have been
praying for us. God bless you all.

Your loving Missionary

May Lewis

The work of Moody and Sankey
here this winter was greatly blessed.
The Father of the Bible Society told
yesterday how eagerly the people received
Testaments from them. Others
German don't deny the Bible, only
[illegible] write books about it. But all
[illegible] read the truth it will bear
Oh, how we should like to ask
prayers for the spread of the Scriptures,
whole Jew and the teachers to consider
they may be made strong, the preachers
teachers that they may be wise and devoted,
that the Churches at home may do more, give
and love the cause more. When I think
the many little villages through which
passed on our way was the great Rocky
Mts, and these vast western plains
the Churches have been established, and
Sunday Schools held for the children, and
teachers for the poor destitute people.
think, Oh! we have never known how

greatly we are favored). I want you to know, as I now do, and be thankful as I now am. Phelps seems nigh to Heaven indeed, so highly exalted in matter of privilege. (I am sure we shall be held responsible for great gifts and opportunities. How I wish that rich Churches would erect splendid houses of worship and send the surplus to those places where there is such great need. In just passing through a place you could tell from its aspect whether or not there was a Church in it. The very people looked different. The "great west" is very, very wicked.) I want to tell you one of the many pleasing incidents of our trip. By the way I do not stop to give any descriptions. I have notions for that and the Missionary Journal. Eva is going to send notes of our journey home to some of you which all who wish to do so can read. (If I should begin to describe the great plains, the lakes and the mountains around

this city, I should not know when to bring this letter to a close. It is said to be like Palestine, the Salt Lake or the Dead Sea, the plain or the valley of the Jordon. It all contains sweet lessons of Gods power and skill, but the goodness and mercy are seen even more clearly in the wonderful way in which He deals with men, and His blessed plan of salvation for us, so vile and unworthy.

The incident was this. (On our way here) Some men were playing cards in a section next to ours on the cars, when I asked Mr Lewis and Eva to sing hymns to counteract their influence. The men put up their cards the moment they started the first verse, and did not take them out again all day.)

I have not told you half I wanted to, had to write in great haste before taking the afternoon train. We go on to San Francisco now, hoping to reach there Wednesday.

"The Lord has been mindful of us" all

all, with the new party, lived in two rooms, a common affair among the less wealthy of the Mormons. She said she often heard her husband tell this girl that she was the only person he had ever loved &c. It seemed as if the world go insane. (I only wonder that they are not all raving maniacs) and all the evil in human nature aroused. She said she felt that she must be very wicked, and one day she went to talk with one of Brigham Young's wives, one who had left a first husband in Illinois to marry Joseph Smith, and after his death she married Mr Young. She said, "most of us are unhappy, we all feel so." Mrs [redacted] exclaimed, "What, you, the wife of the Prophet, I supposed you must be happy." The poor woman gave the answer, "Sister [redacted] I have shed tears enough to drown myself." Yet we hear how these men claim that their families

To the Ladies Missionary Society of Phelps

San Francisco Calif

Wednesday May 1st/84

Dearly Beloved.

I fear you will think I mean to deluge you with Missionary letters; but I must write a sequel to Chatter from Salt Lake. I told you then how pained our Missionaries were all think of our Miss Olmsted, and what a good work she was doing; but I did not tell you some things that I learned of Mormonism which I want you to know that we may all of us better appreciate the evil against which we are fighting, and working. Mr McNeice, our Presbyterian Minister in Salt Lake took me to call upon an apostate Mormon woman, leaving me with her to ask all the questions I liked. He said he wanted me to learn all the secret workings of the

evil, that I might the better tell you
at the East how terrible ~~it is~~ Mormonism
~~They call those who bear Mormonism "Apostates"~~
This lady gave ~~you~~ her life story as I gave it to
me, and now each one of you try and put
yourselves in her place. When she was a
young lady living in New Jersey, one of the
Mormon Missionaries who are sent out to
decoy people into their wretched faith,
converted her to it without telling her from
anything about their polygamous doctrine,
After she was married she and her husband
decided to come to Salt Lake to live. She
then heard of their peculiar mode of life, but
did not fear for her own happiness, as her
husband loved her, and they had been every
thing to each other. She said that what
fascinated her in to their faith was the
spirituality which they claimed to have,
which all proved to be put on, for their
whole system, the basis, is a mass of
blasphemous lies, and remember she has

dwelt among them as one of their number for many years, and knows what she is saying. By the way this lady is Mrs Hunt, one of those who made a speech in the anti-Mormon meeting of which an account is given in the Boston which I send Mrs Graves. Miss Hunt had to go through the desert ribs which cannot be supplied by the described in the Rocky Mountains Presbyterian, one of last years mdse. It is for these ribs that the elegant new Temple is being built. I shall not enter into these, as you have doubtless read them as given by Professor Gaynor. (I asked her if all that was said of them was true, and she said "yes". After a while her husband brought home another wife ten years her junior, and the trials began. This woman treated her with scorn, and received all the attentions to which the first wife had been accustomed. ~~Mrs Hunt~~ the first wife had seven children, and they

to time. We only reached here this
afternoon, and I have taken my first
opportunity to write to you regarding the
things I heard at Salt Lake. You know that
I pray for you and you must not forget that
we are your (Mormon) family away out
here, although not strictly so called
[illegible]

are the loveliest in the world. Well, after years of misery this second wife left Mr Hunt, and the real wife, ready to forgive all, said to him, "Let us begin life over again and love for each other." But he was now so sunken in sin, that there was no possibility of reform, so he lives as a brute, and she alone with her children. Thus the story of one ruined family among thousands. This man might have been a respectable useful citizen all his days, but for this debasing thing which is tolerated in our land. Mrs Hunt told me other things I would like to write. I would not soil my pen with them, stories which prove that the worst that has been said is all too true. One thing I may mention, their cruel rite of "blood atonement," which is this. If one dies, he or she may be forgiven by being blood atoned, or put to death, to make this an excuse for putting anyone out of the way. Whole families have been murdered because they dared to leave the place

and forsake the religion. Not much of this is done now for fear of our government. You know we have a fort just out of Salt Lake whose guns are pointed toward the City, ready to fire if there should be a rebellion. (Mr Sims and Eva rode out to this fort while I was writing my last letter to you.) One instance ~~in as follows~~ ~~Miss Hunt-Jennie~~. A young third wife of Mr Young's nephew, who was accused of something of which she was not guilty. She went to Brigham and told him she was innocent, and received this reply - "My dear, you may have your choice, you may have your throat cut, or take poison." This was for "blood atonement." She said "but I am not guilty" "Lady I am not." "No was she, but her husband took this way of getting her out of his way. Brigham said. "Well, my child, if you are not guilty you will shine all the brighter as a queen in Heaven, and if you are this will atone for your sins." She told him

She could'nt have her throat cut, so poison was the only alternative. Must I take it myself, she said, that would be suicide. He kindly told her that it should be administered, & he sent a physician to give her a poison powder, and the poor creature died after three weeks agony. Should not the women of America rise up as one to put away these things? I thought so much of Mrs Graves while I was in Salt Lake, and how much she had been exercised for our sisters in Utah. We need to be exercised and to do something. I am glad we had that petition to Congress. But after all it is the power of the gospel which must break the evil down completely. Our Schools and Churches here are of Gods own planting, let us water them faithfully with our gifts and prayers. Please tell your next Ladies Missionary prayer Meeting (May 4th) especially remember this subject. There is so much more that I want to say, but time is a limit-